

Whereas the Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus continues to promote diversity and inclusion within the Senate;

Whereas the Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus recognizes each of the 11 current or former Senators of African-American descent;

Whereas the Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus celebrates and commemorates the dedicated efforts of its members to promote a more diverse and representative government; and

Whereas the Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus continues to fight for the justice and equality that started during the civil rights movement of the 1960s: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus for its many contributions and commitment to enrich the Senate community.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMPETITION POLICY, ANTITRUST, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JAMES M. INHOFE

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I understand the Chair has an announcement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate a commu-

nication regarding the resignation of Senator INHOFE.

Without objection, the letters will be printed in the RECORD and spread upon the Journal, as follows:

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, November 29, 2022.

Hon. KAMALA D. HARRIS,
President of the U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS: Please find the attached document dated February 28, 2022 officially notifying Oklahoma Secretary of State Brian Bingman of my intent to resign my Senate seat on January 3, 2023. I further note that my resignation will be effective at 11:59AM on that date.

Sincerely,

JAMES M. INHOFE,
U.S. Senate.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, February 28, 2022.

Secretary of State BRIAN BINGMAN,
Oklahoma City, OK.

DEAR SECRETARY BINGMAN: It has been the greatest honor to serve the people of Oklahoma since I first entered public service in 1967, but after much prayer and consideration, Kay and I feel the time has come to stand aside and support the next generation of Oklahoma leaders.

Accordingly, pursuant to 26 O.S. §12-119, I am writing to inform you of my intention to retire from the United States Senate on January 3, 2023. Under state law 26 O.S. §12-101, this constitutes my irrevocable pledge to retire at the end of the 117th Congress, which allows the special election to be held concurrent with the existing election schedule.

I am excited to announce that I am endorsing Bartlesville-native and fellow Tulsan, Luke Holland in the special election to replace me, because Luke is a fierce conservative and the best person to continue my legacy of a strong national defense and investment in local infrastructure.

May God bless the great state of Oklahoma and the United States of America.

Sincerely,

JAMES M. INHOFE,
U.S. Senator.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. 5068

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 5068 be discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 30, and that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Velez-Rive nomination; further, if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to recon-

sider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, for the information of the Senate, there will be two rollcall votes beginning at 11:30 a.m. and two rollcall votes at 2:15 p.m.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in recess under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I come to the floor today for the 26th consecutive week that the Senate has been in session to highlight the very latest from Russia's illegal, unprovoked, and deadly assault on Ukraine. This continues to be a critical time for Ukraine and Ukraine's freedom fighters, and it is a classic fight for freedom. At this critical juncture, as the winter months approach, Russia's morale is flagging and Ukrainians are making steady gains on the battlefield. It is absolutely vital that the United States and our allies continue to stand by the people of Ukraine. We can't pull back now.

Ukraine, as you know, is a democracy. They are a great ally of ours. They just want to live in peace with their neighbors, including Russia.

Over the objections of 140 countries in the United Nations, Russia launched a brutal invasion of Ukraine on February 24. That was 9 months ago, and they haven't let up. While we celebrated Thanksgiving holiday this past week here in America, Ukrainians endured a deadly week of Russian attacks and bombardments on civilian population centers far, far from the frontlines. They didn't get a Thanksgiving break from the war.

Russia's military is actually continuing to bomb inside of Ukraine even today, civilian targets. What is interesting is that, at the same time, Ukraine is winning on the battlefield. Over half of Ukraine's Russian-occupied territory has now been liberated. Remember, at one point, Ukraine included the occupied territory up here near Kyiv, the capital, and all this area. Most of that area has now been liberated, and these are the areas where the Russians continue to occupy: Crimea, which they took back in 2014, parts of the Donetsk, and these additional areas. Even today, Ukrainians are making progress in these areas.

So on the battlefield, the Ukrainians, with our help and the help of 50 countries around the world, are making